

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract appearing on a separate page enclosed with this Amendment.

Immediately after the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

-- This is a continuation of S.N. 09/746,740, filed December 21, 2000, abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice and add the following new claims 11-17:

11. (New) A double walled insulating member comprising:
 - a first sheet metal wall with enclosing edges;
 - a second sheet metal wall with enclosing edges;
 - a sealing profile hermetically connected at the enclosing edges between the first sheet metal wall and the second sheet metal wall to form a wall connection shaped as a hot seal area, said sealing profile comprising a non-metallic material of low thermal conductivity;
 - a metal foil integrated onto an outside surface of the sealing profile as a vapor barrier;
 - said sealing profile being a hollow structure with a U-shaped cross-section including one open end,
 - said metal foil also having a U-shaped cross-section with one open end and being oriented in parallel to the U-shaped cross section of the sealing profile,

said sealing profile and metal foil including arms extending along the first and second sheet metal walls such that the sealing profile and the metal profile at least cover the space between the first sheet metal wall and the second sheet metal wall and the area of the hot seal so that the metal foil and the hot sealing properties of the non-metallic material are capable of maintaining a high vacuum; and

an evacuated cavity jointly enclosed by the sealing profile and by the first and second sheet metal walls, said evacuated cavity containing an insulating material supporting the first and second sheet metal walls.

12. (New) An insulating member according to claim 11, wherein the insulating material is an open-pore cellular material.
13. (New) An insulating member according to claim 11, wherein the first sheet metal wall and the second sheet metal wall are coated on their interior surfaces with a hot sealable coating at least in the hot seal area.
14. (New) An insulating member according to claim 11, wherein at least in the hot seal area the sealing profile and the metal foil are coated with a hot sealable coating or a hot sealable material.
15. (New) An insulating member according to claim 11, wherein the sealing profile is filled with a stiffening material.
16. (New) An insulating member according to claim 15, further comprising a coupling element embedded in the stiffening material for connecting to a coupling element of an adjacent insulating member.

17. (New) An insulating member according to claim 15, wherein the stiffening material has a low thermal conductivity.